

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02678 020605Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----021629Z 026173 /40

R 011914Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4189

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 2678

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: IT CI SREF
SUBJECT: CASE OF GONZALEZ VERDUGO AND FAMILY

REF: ROME 4592 REPEATED HERE

1. FOR EMBASSY ROME'S BACKGROUND WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH GONZALEZ AND ITALIAN EMBASSY HERE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. ON JANUARY 31 OF THIS YEAR GONZALEZ SURFACED THE IDEA THAT HE AND HIS FAMILY WOULD APPEAR AT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AND CLAIM ASYLUM. GONZALEZ WAS QUITE FRANK IN STATING HIS VIEW THAT IF HE WERE IN RESIDENCE WITH THE U.S. AMBASSADOR THE USG WOULD WORK HARDER TO GET HIM OUT OF CHILE.

2. AFTER CONSULTING THE DEPARTMENT EMBOFF INFORMED GONZALEZ AND ITALIAN CHARGE DE VERGOTTINI, ON MARCH 15, THAT USG DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM AND THAT WE CONSIDERED ANY OPERATION TO SPIRIT GONZALEZ FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY TO THE U.S. EMBASSY RESIDENCE BOTH DANGEROUS FOR GONZALEZ AND IMPRACTICAL. THE BASIC PROBLEM IN THIS SITUATION IS THAT THE GOC DOES NOT WANT GONZALEZ OUT OF THE COUNTRY. MOVING GONZALEZ FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE WOULD NOT
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SOLVE THE PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD ENABLE DE VERGOTTINI TO GET GONZALEZ OFF HIS BACK AT OUR EXPENSE.

3. CLEARLY THE ITALIAN FONMINISTRY AND DE VERGOTTINI ARE CONFUSING ASYLUM WITH THE IMMIGRATION STATUS OF VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE GONZALEZ FAMILY. ON MARCH 15 EMBOFF EXPLAINED CAREFULLY TO GONZALEZ AND TO ITALIAN

CHARGE DE VERGOTTINI THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN U.S. NON-RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM AS USED IN LATIN AMERICA AND OUR READINESS TO ACCEPT GONZALEZ AND HIS WIFE AS IMMIGRANTS TO THE U.S. ALONG WITH THEIR CITIZEN SON. GONZALEZ AND DE VERGOTTINI BOTH SEEMED AT THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND BUT THE ITALIAN FONMINISTRY'S INITIATIVE INDICATES THAT NEIGHER DE VERGOTTINI NOR THE MFA CHILE DESK OFFICER ANFUSO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE.

4. WE HAVE TOLD GONZALEZ AND DE VERGOTTINI ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS THAT GONZALEZ AND FAMILY MAY ENTER THE U.S. IF THEY CAN GET OUT OF CHILE. INDEED, THE EMBASSY HAS MADE STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO INDUCE THE GOC TO PERMIT GONZALEZ AND FAMILY TO LEAVE CHILE. WE HAVE ALSO EXPLAINED TO GONZALEZ AND DE VERGOTTINI THE TECHNICAL PROBLEM OF VISAS. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY MADE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT THE USG WILL NOT ENGAGE IN COVERT ACTIONS TO SNEAK GONZALEZ OUT OF THE ITALIAN CHANCERY SIMPLY TO PUT HIM IN THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

5. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD INFORM MFA OF THE REALITIES OF THIS SITUATION.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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